

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the first paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention relates to a particulate material [consisting] composed of sand[s] grains coated with a thermoplastic polymer to provide a loose material with properties suitable for use as a surfacing composition, in particular for sports surfaces such as fields of artificial grass. The invention further relates to a method of producing such particulate material and a sports surface wherein the material is used.